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ABSTRACT

Noting that parents can open a door to a big, exciting world when they help their children learn to read, this information sheet lists some things parents can do to encourage their children to read and presents a series of reading activities. The information sheet notes that parents can: (1) read aloud to their children; (2) read poems aloud; (3) point to words as they read; (4) listen to their children read homework; (5) go to the library with their children; (6) have reading materials around the house; (7) encourage older children to read to younger children; and (8) help experienced readers talk and write about what they read. The information sheet presents three activities for young children involving reading over and over again, two activities for beginning readers to make sense of sounds, and three activities for more advanced readers to read together. (RS)

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Learning Partners

ED 382 930

Let's Read!

When parents help their children learn to read, they open the door to a big, exciting world. As a parent, you can begin an endless learning chain like this: You read to your children, they develop a love of stories and poems, they want to read on their own, they practice reading, and finally, they read for their own information or pleasure. When children become readers, their world is forever wider and richer.

Here are some things you can do:

- Read aloud to your child: books, newspaper and magazine articles, the back of the cereal box, labels on cans, or directions.
- Read poems aloud together to learn about rhythm and repeated sounds in language.
- Point to the words on the page when you read. Move your finger from left to right.
- Listen to your child read homework or favorite stories to you everyday.
- Go to the library together and check out books. Be sure to ask the librarian for good books or to help you find what you need.
- Have books, magazines, and papers around the house, and let your child see that you like to read, too.
- Encourage older children to read to younger children.
- Help experienced readers talk and write about what they read.

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Reading Activities

Over and Over Again

for young children

1. Pick a story or poem that repeats phrases. "Assign" your child a phrase to repeat each time you read a new part of the story.
2. Read a short portion of the story or poem, then stop and let your child repeat the phrase.
3. Encourage your child to act out the story.

For example, with the story of the "Three Little Pigs:"

Wolf (parent): Little pig, little pig, Let me come in.

Little Pig (child): Not by the hair on my chinny-chin-chin!

Wolf (parent): Then I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house in!

Make Sense of Sounds

for beginning readers

1. Look for poems or tongue twisters that repeat sounds and letters.
2. Point out these sounds and letters, and explain that they often make the same sound whenever you see them with other letters on the page. For example:

There once was a fat cat named Matt.
And a black cat who had a big bat.
The rat put a tack
When the cat turned his back
On the mat where the black cat sat.

A big blue barrel of big blue blueberries.
Does this shop sell socks with spots?

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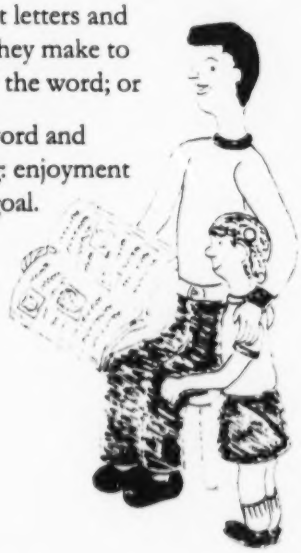
Read Together

for more advanced readers

1. Ask your child to read to you.
2. Take turns. You read a paragraph and your child can read the next one, or take turns reading full pages one after the other. Keep in mind that your child may be concentrating on *how* to read, and your reading helps to keep the story alive.
3. If your child has trouble reading words, you can help in several ways:
   - have your child skip over the word, read the rest of the sentence, and ask what word would make sense in the story;
   - have your child use what is known about letters and the sounds they make to "sound out" the word; or
   - supply the word and keep reading: enjoyment is the main goal.



Resources: Information was taken from *Helping Your Child Learn to Read* and material from the Literacy Council of Alaska. For more information, please contact the National Library of Education, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20208, telephone 1–800–424–1616.

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